



## There Are Always Reasons Not to Invest

Staying invested in stocks despite negative news has historically been profitable.

Whether the headline comes from a newspaper or a push notification, there will always be negative news that will make investors wary.

The table below shows standout news events over the past half century. Since we're in 2022, we highlighted events from each year ending in two along with the ever-tumultuous 2020. Disciplined investors who tuned out the noise and stayed invested in stocks were rewarded in the long term.

### Staying Invested Despite Negative News

Year	Reasons Not to Invest	Stock Market Return for Calendar Year	Growth of \$10,000 Investment*
1972	Watergate scandal breaks	19.00%	\$1,975,778
	Vietnam War continues		
	Munich Olympic terror		
1982	High inflation	21.55%	\$1,052,703
	Severe recession		
	Middle East turmoil		
1992	LA riots	7.62%	\$208,215
	Hurricane Andrew		
	Chicago flood		
2002	US invades Afghanistan	-22.10%	\$61,685
	Iraq War resolution		
	Dot.com bubble fallout		
2012	US Consulate in Benghazi attacked	16.00%	\$46,257
	Trayvon Martin killed		
	Sandy Hook shooting		
2020	Worst pandemic in 100 years	18.40%	\$15,239
	Presidential impeachment		
	Double-digit unemployment		
2022	Omicron variant	???	???
	High inflation		
	Political dysfunction		

**Past performance does not guarantee future results.** The index is unmanaged and not available for direct investment.

\*Assumes an initial investment of \$10,000 in stocks beginning on January 1 of the date in column 1 through December 31, 2021. Assumes reinvestment of dividends and capital gains and no taxes or transaction costs. Stocks are represented by the S&P 500 Index, which is a market capitalization-weighted price index composed of 500 widely held common stocks. For illustrative purposes only. Data Sources: Morningstar and Hartford Funds, 1/22.

## Client Conversations

Perhaps nothing illustrates the resilience of US financial markets more than the confluence of historic events in 2020. And while stocks initially sold off sharply due to COVID-19, they recovered by the end of the year.

What will 2022 bring? Even if it's a down year for stocks like 2002, history suggests the market is likely to be resilient and reward investors over time.

**Your financial professional can help you create a plan  
so you can be a confident and disciplined investor.**

Investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal. Individual investor's circumstances may vary. Before investing, consider your personal goals, risk tolerance, and time horizon. While diversification does not ensure a profit or protect against a loss in a declining market, it may be prudent to diversify among equity and fixed-income investments.

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